Forgery Detected,

AND

Innocency Vindicated.

BEING

A faithful Account of the ſeaſonable Diſcovery of an Horrid and Deteſtible Slander raiſed on the *Anabaptiſts* of *New-England*, in that Diabolical Pamphlet, entituled, Mr. *Baxter baptiz'd in Blood*; deſigning ſo maliciouſly the *Reproach* and *Expoſure* of all under that Denomination.

Mat. 11. 12. *Bleſſed are ye when men ſhall Revile you, and Perſecute you, and ſhall ſay all manner of Evil againſt you falſly, &c.*

Pſal. 120. 2,3. *Deliver my ſoul, O Lord, from Lying lips, and from a Deceitful Tongue.*

Pſal. 35. 11. *They laid to my charge things that I knew not.*

London, Printed by *J. D.* for *Fr. Smith* at the Elephant and Caſtle in *Cornhil*, near the Royal Exchange, and at the ſame Sign firſt Shop without *Temple-Bar*, 1673.

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May 16, 1938.

Forgery Detected, &c.

IT hath been always the *Malicious Practice* of that grand *Slanderer Satan* and his *Instruments*, since the first times of *Christianity*, when they could not resist the Power of *Religion*, to defame the *Persons* and *Assemblies* of all *Christians*, with foul and hateful *Crimes* laid to their charge; putting them into Skins of Beasts, that Dogs might devour them, as appears by the Apologies of *Tertullian*, and other of the *Ancients*, who wrote in their behalf. By which it appears that those *Defamations* fixed no lasting blot upon Men and Meetings, unless with some Rash and very Credulous Persons.

But this unparallel'd *Slanderer* hath hatcht a Forgery beyond all Story, not only under the specious pretence of Piety (intitling God himself, his holy Word, and all that is sacred therein) but set forth with the formalities of Names, Speeches, Actions, Time and Place; Orderly & most Pathetically discribing the most Execrable Murder that ever was known; Exceeding the Cruelties of the most *Savage Heathen*; And as his own words to the life expresseth it, *such a villany which the Myrmidons, and Scythians in the midst of Barbarism it self never heard of*, viz. of first *Stripping* and cruelly *Whipping*, then *Unboweling* and *Fleying alive* a Reverent Godly Minister in his own House, in the midst of the howling

Grones and Scrichings of his dear Relations lying bound before him; And this by *Anabaptists*, and that for no other provocation, but being worsted by him in Disputation. And the better to create belief, this dreadful Story must here be made publick by his pretended *Mournful Brother*, as a known Inhabitant in this City, and the *real Stamp* of Publick *Allowance* (surreptitiously obtained, to avow the truth thereof) put upon it.

That by so *faining* (yet credibly relating the *Fiction* of this unspeakable *Villany* perpetrated in *New-England* by such *Anabaptists* that never were) he might bring into *Obloquy, Hatred, and Hazard*, all of that name in other places, as accessary to a *Murder* done, which was never done.

And may it not be truly said that the Bounds of *Christian Profession* are not wide enough to afford us an *Example* parallel to the *prodigious* Malice of this *lying Defamer*, pretending this horrid Fact as done by *Anabaptists*, that he might the better expose the whole Profession of them in all Parts, though never so Innocent, to the Hatred and Rage of the People in all places against them; the whole design of the *Pamphlet* being no other than to put them into *Sambenita's*, that is, painting them like Devils, both in corrupt *Doctrines*, and wicked Conversations, that he might render them the more odious and obnoxious throughout the World; concluding it in these words, *viz.* I have *penn'd and published this Narrative in perpetuam rei memoriam*, that the world may see the Spirit and Temper of these Men, and that it may stand as an *Eternal Memorial* of their *Cruelty* and *Hatred* to all *Orthodox Ministers*.

But thanks be to the God of Truth and Righteousness,

neſs, who hath timouſly and ſeaſonably diſcovered ſo horrible a *Slander* and *Impoſture*, by the arrival of a Ship which came from *New-England*, above twenty dayes ſince this Murder was ſaid to be committed; the *Maſter* of which Ship, and a *Merchant* living at *Boſton* in *New-England*, the place where this Fact is ſaid to have been acted, teſtifying upon Oath that they knew of no ſuch *Fact*, no ſuch Perſons, either *Murdering* or *Murdered*; Nor any *Cauſes* or *Circumſtances*, of any ſuch deed done, in the place from whence they came, or in the whole *Plantation* of *New-England*; and that they hold it for a meer *Fable* and abſurd *Fiction*, as appeareth by the *Affidavit* it ſelf before the Lord Mayor, hereto annexed, *viz.*

The *Affidavits* of the two *New-England* Men.

RICHARD MARTIN, *Maſter of the good Ship the* Bloſſom *of* Boſton, *of New-England, Merchant; and* HENRY MOUNTFORT *of* Boſton *aforeſaid, Merchant, make Oath, That on the 26th Day of February laſt paſt, they theſe Deponants ſet ſaile from* Boſton *aforeſaid, for the* Port of London; *and theſe Deponants alſo ſay, and affirm, that they the ſaid Deponants for diverſe Years laſt paſt have had their conſtant Reſidence and Abode in or near* Boſton, *aforeſaid; But theſe Deponants and either of them for himſelf ſaith, that they never heard of or knew any Miniſter called or known by the name of* JOSIAH BAXTER, *nor was there, to theſe Deponants Knowledge or Belief, any Diſpute or Controverſie whatſoever between the ſaid* BAXTER, and the ANABAPTISTS *in* New-England, *of or concerning any Point*

of

of Religion: Neither was there any Report at Bolton *aforesaid, or any other Place in* New-England, *of or concerning any Murder pretended to have been committed upon the said* BAXTER, *or any other Person or Persons whatsoever by any* ANABAPTISTS *in* New-England. *And these Deponants do verily believe that the late Book intituled* Mr. BAXTER baptized in Blood, *is an absolute* Pamphlet, *and a very great Falshood, for that these Deponants were residing at* Bolton *aforesaid* two and twenty Dayes *after the said Murder (in the said Pamphlet mentioned) is pretended to have been committed.*

21 May 1673. Ambo jurat. fuer. coram me, RICHARD MARTIN.

HENRY MOUNTFORT.

RO. HANSON, Mayor.

Hereupon the Lord Mayor was pleased by his Officers not only to interdict the vending the said scandalous Pamphlet, but to seize it in the hands of the *Hawkers* and *Mercuries* that sold the same, and to suppress a second Impression thereof in the Press, committing also to Prison several of the Publishers.

And whereas this barbarous Murder is said to be published by *Benjamin Baxter* living in *Fen-Church-street*, the the mournful Brother of the said *Josiah Baxter* (falsly said to be murdered) whom after all our diligent search both in *Fen-Church-street* and elsewhere, we cannot find; as appears by the Testimony of the *Churchwardens, Overseers*, and *Beadles* of *Fen-Church-street* here following, *Viz.*

The

The Certificate of the Officers of the Ward.

WHereas *We have lately ſeen a Pamphlet, entituled*, Mr. **Baxter baptized in Blood**, *ſaid to be publiſhed by his mournful Brother*, Benjamin Baxter *living in* Fen-Church-ſtreet, London, *We the Church-Wardens, Overſeers and Beadles, do Certifie that there is no ſuch Man doth or hath within our memory lived in the two Wards of* **Aldgate** *and* **Longburne**, *in which* Fen-Church-ſtreet *is ſcituate. To the Truth of which Atteſtation We whoſe Names are under-written, have ſet our Hands this preſent 27th day of* May, 1673.

Thomas Baylie,
Will. Wickins,
Gordard Fletch,
Thomas Fiſher,
} *Church-Wardens.*

Sam. Loveday,
Ralph Almond,
} *Overſeers.*

Will. Tyrlington,
Thomas Smith,
} *Beadles.*

It

It is true we find one *William Baxter* a Packer living in *Fenchurch-Street*, who declareth that he never had a Brother at *Virginia* or *New-England*; that he had never heard of this *Josiah Baxter*, a Minister, nor knew any thing at all of the Story or its writing or being published.

We have by diligent search, providentially found out the first Publishers of this lying Pamphlet, one of whom by name *Seymer* (a pretended Doctor of Physick) we have met with; the other who is known by the name of *Lawrance Savil* (yet through guilt hiding his head) we have not met with; who confesseth himself (by a Letter to one of us) drawn in and cheated by this imaginary and suppositious *Benjamin Baxter*: but how likely a story he tells, and whether there is not good cause to conclude him the man himself, let the intelligent *Reader* judge by the perusal thereof, hereunto added, *viz.*

Lawrance Savil's Letter.

SIR,

THE *Doctor* (viz. *Seymer* aforesaid) *has urged and pressed me by several Letters to give the world a full and satisfactory account of this business of Mr.* Baxters *Pamphlet: Mr.* Benjamin Baxter, *the Author of the late Pamphlet, about nine Weeks since insinuated into my Acquaintanice, first in* Grays-Inn *Walks, and afterwards at a Coffee-house in Holborn; I met him often in the Walks, from thence we went to the Coffee houses; I was well pleased with his Company, because hee seem'd an ingenious Person, a good Scholar, and an Orthodox Member of the Church*

Church of England; He uſed alwayes to diſpute againſt the Anabaptiſts, and in Coffee-houſes to be ſo fierce in his Invectives againſt that Party, that ſometimes he became ridiculous to the company; he would often much comment on the encreaſe of that party. Afterwards he told me, he was compoſing a general Hiſtory of the firſt Original and Progreſs of the Anabaptiſts, *with a full confutation of their Tenets; which he was confident would be a work very acceptable to the ſober part of the* Nation.

Then he told me he had a particular Kindneſs for me, and that I ſhould have the publiſhing of it, by which he was ſure I might gain no leſs then 100 l. *I returned him thanks for his Kindneſs, and told him I was not acquainted in things of that Nature, but that it was more fit for ſome Bookſeller to deal in, and that it would require a Diſburſment of a conſiderable Summ of Money, which I was loth to venture. He inſtantly replied, that though I was ignorant in the buſineſs of Printing, yet he underſtood it well, and had printed ſeveral things, but now his Buſineß coming on ſo faſt, he had no time to follow it himſelf, but (if I pleaſed) would wholly imploy me in it, and would diſburſe the Money for Printing and Paper, but leave the Profit intirely to me. I muſt confeß theſe Offers ſeem'd very fair, I could not handſomly refuſe ſuch Kindneß. So the Buſineſs was concluded, and I every Day expected this Elaborate Work for the Preß. I ſaw him no more for eight Dayes together (at which I much wondred) but one Evening at Grays-Inn I met him in a moſt heavy and diſconſolate Condition: after I had preſt him to diſcourſe the Cauſes of his Grief, he told me his Sorrows were unexpreſſible, that his dear Brother that was formerly gone to* Virginia *he heard was kill'd by the* Anabaptiſts; *and then in a*

great Paſſion he flung me three Letters, and bad me read them; He ſaid he was reſolved to immortalize the Fact, and let it ſtand for ever as an Eternal Memorial againſt that Party. I was much troubled at the ſad Fate of his Brother, and ſo we parted. Some three Dayes after we met again, and then he ſhewed me the Copy of this Pamphlet, and told me he came juſt then from Lambeth, and that Doctor Parker had Licenſed it, for (ſaid he) I ſhewed Doctor Parker the three Letters, and could not forbear Weeping. Could you your ſelf have doubted of the reality of the buſineſs, if you had ſeen the Licenſe to it, his Tears and paſſionate expreſſions, and alſo the three Letters? So at laſt I condeſcended to do it. The next day I went to Mr. Darby, and deſired him to print it; he took a veiw of the Copy, and ſaid he was not ſatisfied of the truth of it: But he would recommend me to a Cavalier Printer (as he expreſſed it) in Jewen-Street, who would readily perform the buſineſs. I deferred the publiſhing for ſeven or eight dayes, expecting to hear ſome Objection againſt it, but meeting not with any, I publiſhed it. Mr. Baxter conſtantly met me every day, and always urged the expedite and ſudden publication of the Narrative. I told him it was coming forth. He told me I ſhould command what money I deſired, for this and ſeveral other Books he had to come forth. I replied, that none was wanting yet, but when it was printed, the Printer was to be paid. Upon May 15. I ſhewed him a proof-ſheet; he ſaid he was glad the buſineſs was ſo forward, he would go to the Goldſmith to Morrow; for, ſaid he, that will be ſoon enough for the Printer; But in the mean time, ſayes he, pray let me have 4 or 5 Guineys till to Morrow. I told him I had not ſo much about me, but what I had he ſhould have: So I let him have 40 s. So we parted. The next Day I expected him, but he came

no

no more, neither have I ever ſeen or heard from him ſince.

Formerly when I asked him concerning his Lodging; he ſaid he lived in Fen-Church-ſtreet, but he was ſeldom at home, and it was impoſſible for me to meet with him: He ſaid he was an Atturney, and had good imployment that way. Thus has this Fellow put me upon a buſineſs, and now unworthily deſerted me. And now I begin too late to perceive him either to be a Cheat, or to be groſly cheated and gull'd with falſe Letters; For he ſeveral times ſaid he had not heard of his Brother ſince his Departure out of England till now. If I can do any further Service in the Matter, I ſhall be very ready and willing, for unleſs Baxter *appears in his own Defence, and pay me the Mony I lent him, I ſhall certainly conclude him a Cheat.*

As for my Friend the Doctor, he was altogether unconcerned in the matter, and did only recommend me to a Printer at my Requeſt. All this that I have writ, I will avouch to be moſt true, and if you pleaſe to print it, I will ſtand to it, and juſtify it to be the naked Truth of the Buſineſs.

Your real Friend,
Laurance Savill.

May 20 1673.

An addreſs being made to the Council-Board; they, upon the Examination of the buſineſs, finds it *Falſe* and *Fictitious*, and accordingly ordered the publiſhing the ſame in the *Gazette*, viz.

The Order of Council.

WHereas there is a Pamphlet lately published, Entituled Mr. Baxter Baptized in Blood, containing a horrible Murder committed by four Anabaptists upon the Person of Mr. Josiah Baxter, neer Boston in New-England. The Whole matter having been inquired into, and examined at the Council-Board, is found altogether False and Fictitious.

Edw. Walker.

The Licenser being also made acquainted with the whole matter, confesseth his mistake, and too sudden Credulity in the Licensing so strange a Pamphlet, as appeareth by the Testimonial hereto inserted under his hand, *viz.*

Dr. *Parkers* Testimonial.

WHereas there was a certain Pamphlet lately published under the Title of Mr. Baxter Baptized in Blood, containing a Narrative of a Murder committed on the Person of one Josiah Baxter a Minister neer Boston in New-England; which Narrative was allowed of, Licensed,

ſed, and publickly expoſed to Sale. Theſe are to certifie that the Allowance and Licenſe thereof was obtained at the deſire and ſuggeſtion of one Lawrance Savil, *who in Order to procure the ſame, did really produce to the Licenſer Letters and Teſtimonials under the hands (as he pretended) of ſeveral* Perſons *in* New-England, *containing the particular Circumſtances of the ſaid Relation, and aſſerting the truth of the ſame, as in the printed Copy is expreſſed. All which upon further inquiry and examination, the ſaid Licenſer hath ſince evidently found to be Fictitious and untrue, contrived and invented here in England, without any Warrant or Atteſtation from beyond the Seas. And ſo much he hath thought fit to publiſh, to the end that no Perſon may be abuſed or Impoſed upon by a Report, which, as he is now ſufficiently convinced, is both falſe and groundleſs.*

Read in Council, *Sam. Parker.*
30th *May* 1673.

BY all this, and what more we hope yet to find out of this wicked and inhumane deſign, (as cruel in the intention, as the fact is in the fiction, and both equally deteſtible) our Integrity and Innocency will the more appear.

And although to be falſely accuſed, directly or indirectly, is a great exerciſe; yet to be cleared, and timely acquited we look at to be a good providence of God to us. For what have we done, or what are our Principles in Religion, that men ſhould think us any way fitted or diſpoſed

diſpoſed to conceive, commit, approve, and not abhorr ſuch abominable crimes as theſe are? what is in our Practice of being *Baptized* in *Water* upon the profeſſion of Faith, that ſhould incline us to ſuch henious doings, above all others, in the thoughts of any ſenſible or rational men?

And although perhaps this Pamphlet hath wrought ſome prejudice in the minds of many men againſt us for a while, yet conſidering how ſeaſonably it hath pleaſed God to detect and defeat the malicious and cruel deſign of this Diabolical Stratagem,

We have cauſe to acknowledge the goodneſs of God therein; and patiently to bear ſuch ſlandrous Reports, eſpecially remembring that what is now our Caſe, was the common Caſe of all Chriſtians heretofore, to be defamed and evil ſpoken of without cauſe, though it hath not befallen many to be ſo clearly and fully acquitted.

We leave this Record to poſterity, as a ſignal example to future Ages, how injuriouſly and cruelly the Malice of ſome men hath vented it ſelf againſt us and our Profeſſion, and how ſpeedily and opportunely the Goodneſs and favour of God hath appeared in our timely and ſucceſsful Vindication. When as that which this wicked Author hath boaſted to the perpetual Memory of the Fact, will be found to turn upon him to his eternal Shame.

FINIS.

The Bookſellers Advertiſement to the Reader.

That ſince the deteſtible *Pamphlet* hath ſo deſigned, not only to reproch and villifie the Profeſſors of Baptiſm by this his villanous attempt, but the Profeſſion it ſelf alſo, as guilty of much Ignorance, Wickedneſs and Sacrilegious Impiety; He hereby ſignifies to the impartial Reader, that if he deſires Information into the Principle or Practice of that reproached Truth, he can furniſh him with moſt of the judicious Treatiſes written upon that Subject, and amongſt them of moſt Note,

The learned Treatiſes of Mr. *John Tombes*.

The Works of Mr. *Samuel Fiſher*, in Folio.

A judicious Piece, by *Henry Lawrance*, Eſq.

And a Treatiſe of **Baptiſm**, by *H. D.* (lately come forth) wherein that of *Believers* and that of *Infants* is examined by the Scriptures. With the Hiſtory of both out of Antiquity.

Imprimatur,

Sam. Parker.

June 5. 1673.